KATO Plus
Seating User Manual

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KATO Plus Seating User Manual

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Introduction

The Kato+ seat is a custom-made device and it should only be used by the person it was made for.

This User Manual gives important safety advice as well as giving information about making basic adjustments and caring for the Kato. (Any other mechanical adjustments or maintenance must only be carried out by your Wheelchair Service or by Blatchford Clinical Services).

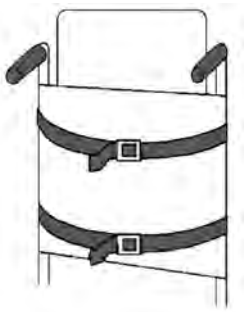
Pre-use Checks (fig.1)

Before using your Kato seating system, please check the following:

- The two retaining straps should be securely fastened (see **fig.1** and 'fitting of Kato seat to host wheelchair' on the next page). This check must be carried out every time the equipment is dismantled and assembled.
- All user support items (for example pelvic straps, a butterfly harness or footstraps) should be securely fastened.

If you are not sure how to do any of these things please contact your Wheelchair Service.

Fitting the KATO Seat Insert into the Host Wheelchair



Note : your seat may only have one strap

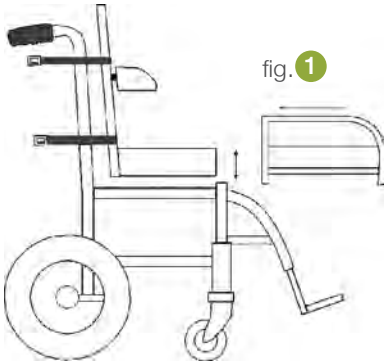


fig. 1

1. Wheelchairs Complete with Base and Back Canvas (fig.1)

- Remove armrests from host wheelchair to improve access.
- Place Kato seat onto wheelchair canvas.
- Pass the two retaining straps around the wheelchair uprights (make sure they are not tangled or obstructed).
- Push both ends of the buckle together to secure.
- Tighten both straps by pulling the loose end of the webbing away from the buckle.
- If the Kato is fitted with a tube on the rear of the backrest (see **fig.2)** make sure that the U shaped brackets (A) fasten around the push handles of the wheelchair (B). Reverse the process to remove the Kato seat from the wheelchair.

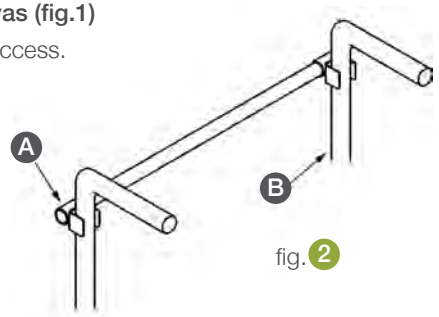


fig. 2

BAIS - Blatchford Adaptive Interface System

Components:

A Interface
B Latch Clamps
C Seating Attachment

Fitting the Interface to the Wheelchair (Applies to folding wheelchairs only)

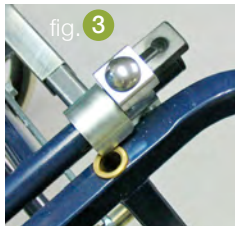


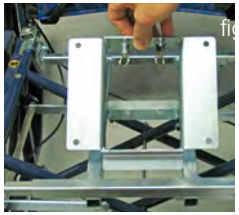
fig. 3

fig. 4 fig. 5

fig. 6

1. Ensure that the wheelchair is fully open.
2. Check that the latches are in the open position (**fig.3**).
3. Position the interface hooks, ensuring that on each side one hook is behind and one hook is in front of the clamps (**fig.4** and **fig.5**).
4. Slide the latch clamps so that the tongue is over the top of hooks (**fig.6**).
5. Check that the interface is correctly located by attempting to lift it out (a small amount of movement is normal).
6. To remove the interface, slide the latches back and lift the interface upward.

Attaching the Seating System to the Interface



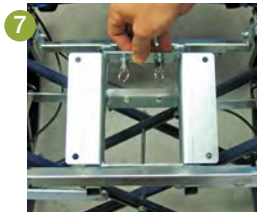


fig. 7

1. Taking care when lifting, position the seat onto the interface and locate the front hook onto the front bar (**fig.7**).
2. Allow the seat to tilt backwards and down, pressing it firmly into place. A click will be heard as the locks engage.
3. Check that the pins have fully located by pulling the seat forward, (a small amount of movement is normal). However, the seat should not lift forward.
4. Repeat stages 1 to 4 if the seat lifts from the interface.

Removing the Seating System from the Interface

1. Undo or disconnect and backrest fixings.
2. Pull "D" ring (**fig.8, located under the front of the seat**) firmly and lean the Seating System forward.
3. Taking care, lift the Seating System upward and clear from the wheelchair.

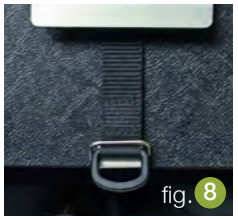


fig. 8

Adjusting the Headrest

The headrest can be moved both up and down and front to back (**fig.9**). The angle of the support can also be set to get the best position.

- To adjust the headrest height, turn the locking knob (A) anticlockwise. Alter the height to suit the user and retighten the knob.
- To adjust the head support in or out, turn the locking knob (B) anticlockwise. Alter the position of the headrest to suit the user and retighten the knob.

To adjust the angle of the headrest (C) please consult your Wheelchair Service.

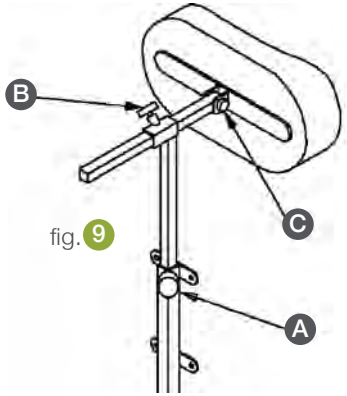


fig. 9

Note: the headrest must be in place during the transportation of the user in the Kato (see page 9 for more information).

Using the Thoracic and Hip Supports

Adjusting Thoracic Supports

The thoracic pads are set to suit the postural needs of the user. If you feel that the setting of the pads carried out at the delivery is no longer suitable please contact your Wheelchair Service.

Swing Away Function (fig.10)

- Lift the thoracic pad upwards as far as it will go (A).
- Swing away the pad as shown (B).
- Reverse the process to return the support towards the user.

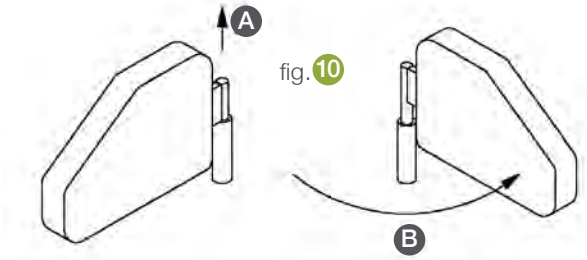


fig. 10

Hip Supports

- Lift the Velcro side flaps up at each side of the system.
- Remove/add padding from each side as required (ensure each side is adjusted evenly).
- Replace the flaps to protect the supports.

The Abduction Block (pommel) or Kneeblock (fig.11) (if fitted)

- Slide the end of the square tube into the bracket, until it will not go any further (the kneeblock should not be in contact with the users knees at this point).
- Hold the pommel or kneeblock and push the button on the right of the square tube.
- The pommel or kneeblock can now be pushed in until the button locates into the hole of the location bracket, securing the pommel or kneeblock in position. (The knee block should now be in full contact with the users knees).
- Reverse this process to remove.

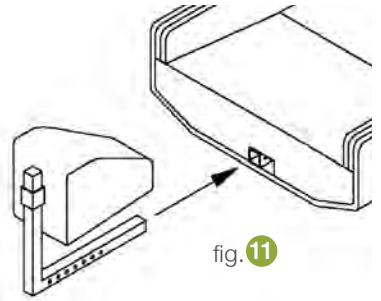


fig. 11

Pommels and kneeblocks are set up to meet the clinical needs of the user. The position of these parts should not be changed. Any problems should be brought to the attention of the Wheelchair Service.

A risk assessment should be carried out in order to ascertain whether or not the kneeblocks should be removed during transportation.

Adjusting the Seat Depth (fig.12)

The seat depth can be altered to allow for growth.

- To change the depth, remove the front back pad (A), which is attached with Velcro, from the remaining back pad.
- If a sacral pad is fitted remove this also (B).
- Now remove the remaining back pad from the plastic backrest (this is also attached with Velcro)
- Re-attach the sacral pad and the first back pad (A) to the plastic backrest. The seat will now have 25mm more depth (the other pad is no longer needed).

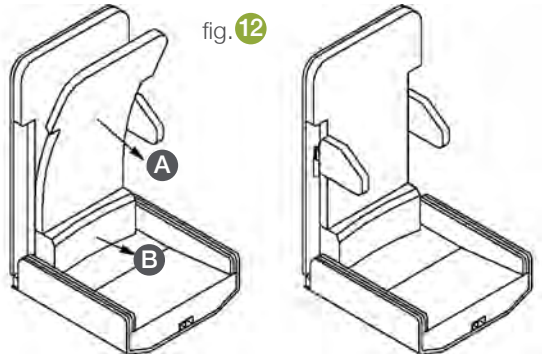


fig. 12

If you feel that the seat depth is still not suitable please contact your Wheelchair Service as further adjustments can be arranged.

Adjusting the Footrest (if fitted)

Footrest 1 (fig.13)
(for seating systems used in a standard wheelchair)

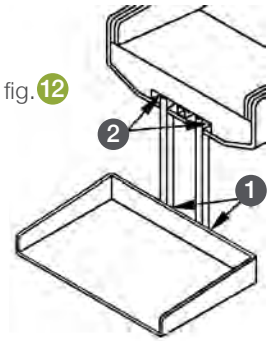
To adjust the height of the footrest:

- Undo the two locking knobs at the rear of the footrest (1).
- Move the footrest to the correct height and re-tighten both knobs.

To remove the footrest for storage:

- Using each hand, push & hold the two securing buttons (2).
- Gently pull the footrest towards you for complete removal.

fig. 12



Footrest 2 (fig.14)
(for seating systems fitted to shadows or buggies)

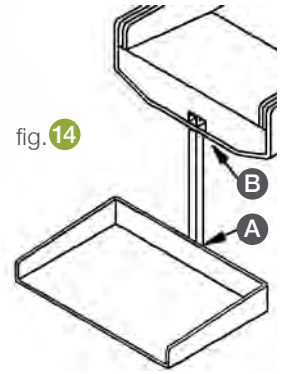
To adjust the height of the footrest:

- Undo the locking knob(s) at the rear of the footrest (A).
- Move the footrest to the correct height and re-tighten the locking knob(s).

To remove the footrest for storage:

- Loosen the locking knob (B) and pull the footrest away from the seat.
- Reverse the process to re-attach.

fig. 14



Posture Belt & Posture Harness - User Instructions

Using a harness:

- Do the bottom straps up first ensuring the harness is away from the user's neck.
- Do the top straps up by clicking the male buckle into the attached female buckle of the harness.
- Adjust the top straps by pulling the 'D' loop forward and down whilst holding the shoulder of the user in the desired position.

For Belts & Harnesses, always make sure that:

- Straps are not twisted.
- Buckles are adjusted so that when they are fastened together there is no slack in the strap.
- Buckles are fully locked together.
- Each end of the belt or harness is still securely attached to the seating system or wheelchair.
- Buckles or webbing do not show signs of excessive wear – if you are concerned about the condition of any items contact the wheelchair service.

Cleaning

These items should be wiped clean using a damp cloth using only a mild detergent.
(PLEASE DO NOT use bleach or products containing bleach).
A soft brush can be used to remove heavier soiling.

Safety Instructions

Blatchford posture belts and harnesses are designed to provide postural support and are intended to be used as part of a specialised seating system. The belt or harness should be fitted to the seat and adjusted at the time of delivery. Replacements must only be fitted by Blatchford or a Wheelchair Service representative.

Important Safety Warnings

POSTURAL HARNESSES AND BELTS ARE NOT DESIGNED TO BE USED AS SAFETY DEVICES AND MUST NOT BE USED AS VEHICLE RESTRAINTS FOR USE IN TRANSPORTATION.

A suitable, separate, 3-point passenger seat belt (fastened into the vehicle) must be used to secure the seated occupant during travel in order to provide protection in the event of an accident. The seatbelt should have both pelvic and upper body sections, with the upper section fastened into the vehicle at the upper level. This should be in accordance with Medical Device Report – *Guidelines for transporting children in special seats.*

ALWAYS CHECK THAT THE BELT IS A SNUG FIT. CHEST BELTS SHOULD ALWAYS BE FASTENED AROUND THE OCCUPANT'S BODY AND UNDER THE ARMS. IT IS NOT INTENDED THAT THE ARMS SHOULD BE INCLUDED WITHIN THE BELT.

If the hip belt is incorrectly adjusted there is a risk of the wheelchair occupant slipping down in their seat and could result in occupant's upper body and neck coming into contact with the belt.

If you are unsure about any of these instructions or if you are worried about the adjustment of the belt contact your Wheelchair Service.

Moulded Trays - User Instructions

Moulded Trays are designed to provide a work or play surface together with support and control in conjunction with any seating arrangement.

Using the tray

1. Ensure that the two vertical stems on the underside of the tray are securely located in the wheelchair location points.
2. To fine tune the position of the tray in relation to the user, the locking knobs on the underside of the tray must be loosened to allow the tray to be moved forwards or backwards into the desired position. Re-tighten the locking knobs after adjustment.

Width adjustment

To change the width of the tray fittings to suit an alternative wheelchair;

1. Turn the tray over and loosen the four screws using a large flat bladed screw driver (do not remove the screws completely).

2. Slide the adjustment tubes out/in to the desired width, ensuring that they remain parallel.
3. Re-tighten the screws.

Cleaning

A damp, soapy cloth can be used to clean the tray surface.

Warnings

- **ON NO ACCOUNT SHOULD ANY HOLES BE DRILLED INTO THE TRAY TOP.**
- **ENSURE ALL LOCKING KNOBS ARE SECURE BEFORE USE.**
- **THE TRAY MUST BE REMOVED BEFORE TRANSPORTATION.**

Moulded Sandals & Footstraps - User Instructions

Moulded Sandals and Footstraps are designed to provide support and control in conjunction with any seating arrangement.

Do:

- Ensure that straps are not twisted.
- Ensure that buckles are adjusted so that when they are fastened, there is no slack in the strap.

Care

Check that buckles and straps do not show signs of excessive wear or fraying - if you are concerned about the condition of any item refer to your seating technician at the clinic or through your supplier as soon as possible.

Cleaning

These items can be wiped clean using a damp, soapy cloth. A soft brush can be used to remove heavier soiling.

Warning

THIS DEVICE IS NOT DESIGNED FOR USE AS PART OF A SAFETY RESTRAINT SYSTEM FOR TRAVEL IN A VEHICLE.

AEL Mounting Kit - User Instructions

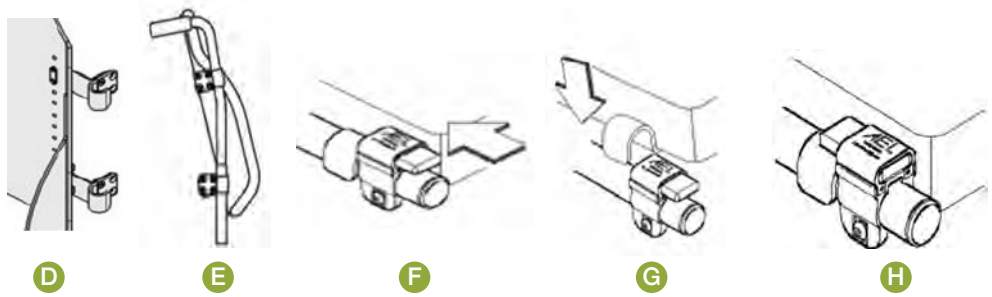
The AEL Mounting Kit is made up of the components shown above (figs. **A**, **B** and **C**). **These are not user adjustable components and therefore should not be altered in anyway by the user or carers.**

A and **B** are screwed together with the supplied fittings and attached to the back of the seating system backrest (fig.**D**) or to the bottom of the seating system seat base (fig.**H**).

Component **C** is fitted to either the backrest posts or the seat rail tubes of the wheelchair.

To attach the seat to the wheelchair, it is necessary to press (firmly) the hook part onto the tube as shown in fig. **E** and **F** next to the locating latches (fig **C**).

Once correctly located the latch can then be moved over the hook and hence preventing it from being removed, as shown in fig.**H**. This should be completed for all locating latches.
The backrest or seat base is now securely attached to the wheelchair.



Looking After Your Kato Seat

Routine Maintenance

The following checks should be carried out by the carer on a continuous basis to ensure the safe and comfortable use of the seat.

- Check there is no damage to the two retaining straps and that they are tight when fastened.
- Check there is no damage to the user supports and straps e.g. pelvic straps, butterfly harness or footstraps.
- Check all buckles are fastening securely.
- Check that all adjustable brackets (for example, thoracic pads, kneeblocks, pommel, headrest and footrest brackets) are able to move freely when operated or adjusted.
- Check the upholstery on the Kato seat is not damaged or torn as this could cause localised skin marking to the user or general discomfort.

Inspection and Maintenance by the Wheelchair Service

In addition to the routine checks by the carer the Kato seat should be inspected by the Wheelchair Service or by Blatchford Clinical Services to make sure that the seat continues to be safe to use and to make sure that it is still suitable for the needs of the user.

These checks should make sure that all the parts of the Kato are working properly and that there are no signs of damage that could affect the safety of the seat and its user.

Cushions and covers should also be examined to make sure that there are no sharp edges or tears that could cause harm to the user.

If any problems are identified arrangements should be made for these to be corrected immediately.

The Wheelchair Service should decide how often these checks should be made taking into account the needs of the user and the intended usage level of the seat.

It is recommended that the interval between these checks should be no more than 24 months.

Cleaning Instructions

All of the upholstered items can be taken off the plastic seat shell of the Kato for ease of cleaning. Peel away those items attached with Velcro or undo zips where these are fitted.

Mild Cleaning

For mild cleaning a soft brush applied gently to the soiled area should help remove any dirt. For large areas a damp soapy cloth may also be used. **Only use mild detergents. Allow to dry before re-use.**

Vinyl

Although the vinyl covers are removable **they should not be washed in a washing machine**. To clean the upholstery, wipe a soapy cloth over the soiled areas as required. Allow to dry before re-use.

Dartex Fabric (where fitted)

If there is a foam section in your seat that is covered with Dartex, please follow the instructions for cleaning as described in the Vinyl section. The foam inside this cover will be sealed within a waterproof clear liner. This liner can be cleaned by wiping it with a soapy cloth. The foam should be left sealed within the liner.

Terry Towelling

The covers should be washed at 30˚C maximum. At the end of the washing cycle the covers should be placed in a warm environment and allowed to dry naturally. DO NOT tumble dry or bleach the covers (bleach will damage the material and tumble drying may cause it to shrink).

Plastic Seat Shell

A damp non-soapy cloth should be used to clean the main plastic surfaces of the seat both inside and out.

Transportation in a Motor Vehicle

NOTE:

- **The Kato seat must not be used as a car safety seat.**
- The Kato is designed to allow the seat and its user to be transported in a forward facing position in a vehicle designed for the purpose (for example, in a suitably equipped minibus).
- Blatchford Special Seating products are interfaced using BAIS, which conforms with ISO16840.

Transportation - Essential Safety Information. **NOTE: this information should be passed on to those people making transport arrangements (e.g. schools and other organisations).**

Securing the user, the Kato seat and the host wheelchair in a vehicle:

1. During travel the Kato must be securely fastened into its wheelchair as described earlier in this manual. If the Kato is fitted into a wheelchair with a reclining backrest the backrest should be in the upright position during travel.
2. Posture belts and postural harnesses supplied as part of the seating system are designed to give postural support only. Where these items are fitted they should be used during travel **but they must not be used as the only safety restraints.**
3. **The wheelchair itself must be fastened down in the vehicle – this must be in accordance with the wheelchair manufacturer's instructions.** (The wheelchair manufacturer will issue these instructions separately. In case of query contact the Wheelchair Service).
4. **A suitable, separate, passenger seat belt (fastened in to the vehicle) must be used by the occupant during travel. In order to achieve occupant restraint and optimum protection in a crash situation the seatbelt should have both pelvic and upper body sections (for example a 3 point type with the upper section fastened into the vehicle at the upper level) as a minimum standard.**

Using Kato accessories during travel

The following information and advice should be considered - the accessories used and the needs and circumstances of the user must be taken into account:

1. **The Kato seat headrest should be used during travel.**
2. **Wheelchair mounted trays should always be taken off while travelling and stored securely in the vehicle.**
3. **Kneeblocks used in a vehicle could cause damage to the hips and knees in the event of an accident but, without these in place, there could be risks to other passengers. (As part of the initial assessment by the Wheelchair Service the best practice for the particular user should be determined and the outcome of this assessment passed on to the people making the transport arrangements).**
4. **Footstraps are not designed to be a part of a passenger restraint system but, where these are fitted, there may be advantages in these being in place during travel. (Again these issues should be considered as part of the initial assessment by the Wheelchair Service and recommendations made to the people making the transport arrangements).**

(Separate information sheets are issued with accessories and these should also be consulted).

Important Reminders

It is important that the carer is aware of and considers the following:

- The Kato seat is a custom-made device to be used only by the person it was made for.
- If the user has marking on the skin or becomes uncomfortable when in the seat, contact the Wheelchair Service immediately.
- The Kato seat must only be used with the wheelchair it was made for. If a different wheelchair is going to be used contact the Wheelchair Service for help and advice.
- Maintenance and adjustments (other than those shown in this User Manual) must only be carried out by Blatchford Clinical Services.
- No alterations should be made to the seat nor should other company's components be fitted without the prior agreement of Blatchford Clinical Services.
- **The Kato seat is not designed for use as a car safety seat.**

Due care and attention must be taken at all times when using the Kato.

Take particular care when negotiating slopes, difficult surfaces or other obstacles.

Further information

Information about wheelchair tie-down and occupant restraint systems can be obtained from :

C N UNWIN LTD., Unwin House, The Horseshoe, Coat Road, Martock, Somerset, TA12 6EY. Tel: 01935 827740 www.unwin-safety.com

If you have further questions about any of the following please contact the Wheelchair Service:

- availability of seating accessories.
- changing a Kato Seat to fit a different wheelchair.
- use of the seating system in a motor vehicle.
- information on the crash testing of Kato Seats.

Notes:

Manufacturer's Label:

Please attach manufacturer's label here.

blatchford.co.uk

Chas A Blatchford & Sons Ltd., 11 Atlas Way, Atlas North, Sheffield, S4 7QQ.

t: +44 (0) 114 2637900 f: +44 (0) 114 2637901 e: seatingsales@blatchford.co.uk

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